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Pers. Shaul, W. Dennis
CIA 2-04.3 student groups
Chg. 1 Natl. Student Assn.

12 PAST N.S.A. HEADS DEFEND SECRET FUNDS

Shaul, Of 1963, Leads
Session Asserting
No CIA Dictation

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 25—Twelve former presidents of the National Student Association today issued a joint statement defending its ties since 1952 with the Central Intelligence Agency and denying "categorically" that policies were influenced by that link.

The statement, produced at a news conference by W. Dennis Shaul, who was president in 1963, bore the names of all presidents but one from 1952 through 1964, but was not signed by the current 1967 president or his immediate predecessor, both critics of the CIA tie-up.

1965 President In Army

Another missing from the list was the 1965 president, Steve Robbins, said to be in the Army and unavailable to those who undertook to circulate the statement.

Shaul told his news conference the "impetus" for the statement came entirely from past presidents and was uninfluenced in any way by the Central Intelligence Agency, which has been subjected for the last two weeks to widespread criticism for its covert financing of the N.S.A. and other private organizations engaged in anti-Communist work overseas.

Disputes Brown's View

The statement sharply disputed a charge made a week ago by Sam Brown, current chairman of the association's Supervisory Board, that former student officers had been duped and placed in "an ethical trap" by the Intelligence Agency.

Explaining that there appeared in the 1950's and early 1960's to be a critical need for the American student movement to participate actively in world affairs for the purpose of strengthening democratic student organizations abroad, to promote nationalist movements in Asia,

Africa and Latin America and to confront Communist delegations to world youth festivals as political adversaries in a changing world rather than "ideological pariahs," the statement said:

"Without substantial funds, N.S.A.'s international program would have been immobilized.

"Yet each of us concluded that, without question we would have chosen immobilization if the only funds available were conditioned on impairment of the independence of any of N.A.S.'s principles or programs.

"Each Of Us Concluded"

"And so the question became whether CIA funds entailed any such conditions.

"We state categorically that they did not. Each of us after being elected to office was fully informed about the CIA relationship.

"Arrant Nonsense"

"Allegations that we were 'trapped' or 'duped' are arrant nonsense.

"While we constantly searched for alternative sources of funds, this relationship was the only realistic and responsible alternative available to us at that time.

"Each of us authorized its continuation subject to the controls and safeguards which we each deemed necessary to insure the complete independence and integrity of N.S.A.

In forming Successors"

One such safeguard was to insist that senior elected officers in succeeding years be informed of the relationship so that no possibility could exist of by passing the duly elected leadership of the association, which could reappraise the relationship annually.

"Each of us maintained the upmost vigilance and independence of judgment during his term of office. Attempts at control would not have been tolerated. Any such attempts would have resulted in an immediate termination of the relationship."

In proof of this, the statement said, policies and programs of the N.S.A. during the period of subsidy were "often in conflict with the positions of the Government" as any review of the record would show.

Portugal Scores CIA

Lisbon, Feb. 25 (AP)—Premier Antonio Salazar's party newspaper said today alleged Central Intelligence Agency infiltration of illegal Portuguese students' groups was "contrary to American ideals."

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